

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A musical tone signal generation apparatus including a plurality of ~~at least one~~ performance ~~operator~~ operators which ~~[[is]]~~ are physically separated from a main unit ~~[[to]]~~ and each other, and which issue tone-generation instructions for generation of musical tones in response to manual operations made by a ~~user~~, plurality of users, each operating one of the plurality of performance operators, said musical tone signal generation apparatus comprising:

a musical tone signal generator for generating musical tone signals; a storage for storing performance data;

an automatic performance controller for playing automatic performance by controlling the musical tone signal generator based on the performance data stored in the storage; and

a manual performance controller for controlling the musical tone signal generator to generate the musical tone signals in response to the tone-generation instructions output from the performance operator being manually operated by the user, the tone-generation instructions defining tone color data assigned to at least one of the performance operators.

2. (Currently Amended) A musical tone signal generation apparatus including a plurality of ~~at least one~~ performance ~~operator~~ operators which ~~[[is]]~~ are physically separated from a main unit ~~[[to]]~~ and each other, and which issue tone-generation instructions for generation of musical tones in response to manual operations made by a ~~user~~, plurality of users each operating one of the plurality of performance operators said musical tone signal generation apparatus comprising:

a musical tone signal generator for generating musical tone signals;
a storage for storing performance data;
an automatic performance controller for playing automatic performance by controlling the musical tone signal generator based on the performance data stored in the storage;

a manual performance controller for controlling the musical tone signal generator to generate the musical tone signals in response to the tone-generation instructions output from the performance operator being manually operated by the user, the tone-generation instructions defining tone color data assigned to at least one of the performance operators; the tone-generation instructions defining tone color data assigned to the at least one performance operator and

first and second manual operable members, each of which is manually operated by the user to control the musical tone signal generator in accordance with a prescribed function,

wherein the first manual operable member is provided for the main unit while the second manual operable member is provided for the performance operator.

3. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the storage is provided for a musical tune constructed by a plurality of parts so that the storage stores performance data with regard to at least a prescribed part within the plurality of parts and tone color data with regard to all of the plurality of parts, so that the automatic performance controller controls the musical tone signal generator to generate musical tone signals of automatic

performance using a prescribed tone color assigned to the prescribed part whose performance data is stored in the storage, while the manual performance controller controls the musical tone signal generator to generate musical tone signals using a tone color which is selected from among tone colors designated by the tone color data other than the prescribed tone color and is assigned to the performance operator.

4. (Currently Amended) A musical tone signal generation apparatus including a plurality of performance operators ~~each of which~~ [[is]] are physically separated from a main unit [[to]] and each other, and which issue tone-generation instructions for generation of musical tones in response to manual operations made by a plurality of users, each operating one of the plurality of performance operators said musical tone signal generation apparatus comprising:

a musical tone signal generator for generating musical tone signals;

a storage which is provided for a musical tune constructed by a plurality of parts, so that the storage stores performance data with regard to at least a prescribed part within the plurality of parts and tone color data with regard to all of the plurality of parts;

a tone color assignor for assigning tone colors, designated by the tone color data of the plurality of parts, respectively to the plurality of performance operators;

an automatic performance controller for playing automatic performance by controlling the musical tone signal generator based on the performance data stored in the storage; and

a manual performance controller for controlling the musical tone signal generator to generate the musical tone signals in response to the tone-generation instructions output from the performance operators being manually operated by the users, the tone-generation instructions defining tone color data assigned to at least one of the performance operators.

5. (Currently Amended) A musical tone signal generation apparatus including a plurality of performance operators ~~each of which~~ [[is]] are physically separated from a main unit [[to]] and each other, and which issue tone-generation instructions for generation of musical tones in response to manual operations made by a plurality of users, each operating one of the plurality of performance operators, said musical tone signal generation apparatus comprising:

a musical tone signal generator for generating musical tone signals;

a storage which is provided for a musical tune constructed by a plurality of parts, so that the storage stores performance data with regard to at least a prescribed part within the plurality of parts and tone color data with regard to all of the plurality of parts;

a tone color assignor for assigning tone colors, designated by the tone color data of the plurality of parts, respectively to the plurality of performance operators;

an automatic performance controller for playing automatic performance by controlling the musical tone signal generator based on the performance data stored in the storage;

a manual performance controller for controlling the musical tone signal generator to generate the musical tone signals in response to the tone-generation instructions output from the performance operators being manually operated by the users, the tone-generation instructions defining tone color data assigned to at least one of the performance operators; and

first and second manual operable members, each of which is manually operated by the user to control the musical tone signal generator in accordance with a prescribed function,

wherein the first manual operable member is provided for the main unit while the second manual operable member is provided for one of the plurality of performance operators.

6. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 4 further comprising:

a loader for loading the performance data into the storage from an external; and

an assignment activator for automatically activating the tone color assignor to proceed to assignment of the tone colors to the plurality of performance operators.

7. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

8. (Currently Amended) A musical tone signal generation apparatus accommodated for multiple users to play music in an ensemble, comprising:

- a main unit;
- a plurality of performance operators, each of which is physically separated from the main unit and each other, and which issue tone-generation instructions for generation of musical tones in response to manual operations made by a plurality of users, each operating one of the plurality of performance operators ~~and is manually operated by each user to issue tone-generation instructions;~~
- a storage for storing performance data and tone color data with respect to at least a single musical tune constructed by a plurality of parts respectively corresponding to a plurality of tone colors;
- a tone color assignor for assigning the plurality of tone colors to the plurality of performance operators;
- a musical tone signal generator for generating musical tone signals based on the performance data stored in the storage so as to play automatic performance or for generating musical tone signals in response to the tone-generation instructions being issued from each of the plurality of performance operators so as to play manual performance using each of the tone colors assigned to the performance operators; and
- a plurality of speakers for producing musical tones corresponding to the musical tone signals of the automatic performance or manual performance, wherein the plurality of speakers are arranged on the main unit in connection with the plurality of performance operators respectively.

9. (Previously Presented) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 8 wherein each of the plurality of performance operators includes at least a pad whose surface is to be struck by each user to issue a tone-generation instruction.

10. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 8 further comprising a control panel that is mounted on the main unit to provide manual controls for the automatic performance and the manual performance.

11. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 10 further comprising a sub panel that is mounted on the performance operator to provide manual controls for the automatic performance.

12. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 8 wherein each of the plurality of performance operators further installs an informer that informs the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction.

13. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the informer is a speaker that produces sound in response to issuance of a tone-generation instruction.

14. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the informer is a light emitter that radiates light in response to issuance of a tone generation instruction.

15. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the storage is provided for a musical tune constructed by a plurality of parts so that the storage stores performance data with regard to at least a prescribed part within the plurality of parts and tone color data with regard to all of the plurality of parts, so that the automatic performance controller controls the musical tone signal generator to generate musical tone signals of automatic performance using a prescribed tone color assigned to the prescribed part whose performance data is stored in the storage, while the manual performance controller controls the musical tone signal generator to generate musical tone signals using a tone color which is selected from among tone colors designated by the tone color data other than the prescribed tone color and is assigned to the performance operator.

16. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising:

a loader for loading the performance data into the storage from an external; and

an assignment activator for automatically activating the tone color assignor to proceed to assignment of the tone colors to the plurality of performance operators.

17. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

18. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

19. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 15 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

20. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 4 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

21. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

22. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

23. (Original) A musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising an informer to inform the user of issuance of a tone-generation instruction being issued by the performance operator in response to a manual operation.

24. (Currently Amended) A musical tone signal generation apparatus including a plurality of performance operators which are physically separated from a main unit and each other, and which issue tone-generation instructions for generation of musical tones in response to manual operations made by a plurality of users, each operating one of the plurality of performance operators, said musical tone signal generation apparatus comprising:

- a main unit (or main body) that has a circular periphery;
- at least one performance operator that is separated from the main unit;
- a plurality of speakers arranged on the main unit;
- a sensor installed in the performance operator, wherein the sensor detects an impact applied to the performance operator so as to convert it to an electric signal; and

- a musical tone signal generator for generating a musical tone signal based on the electric signal output from the sensor, so that the speaker generates a musical tone based on the musical tone signal, the tone-generation instructions defining tone color data assigned to at least one of the performance operators.

25. (Previously Presented) The musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the main unit has a conical shape.

26. (Previously Presented) The musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of speakers are arranged on the main unit in a radial pattern.

27. (Previously Presented) The musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 24, which is designed as a portable percussion instrument.

28. (Previously Presented) The musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising:

a storage for storing performance data, and
an automatic performance controller for playing automatic performance by controlling the musical tone signal generator based on the performance data stored in the storage.

29. (Previously Presented) The musical tone signal generation apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the performance operator provides at least one pad that is to be struck by a user and that has a sensor thereunder.